

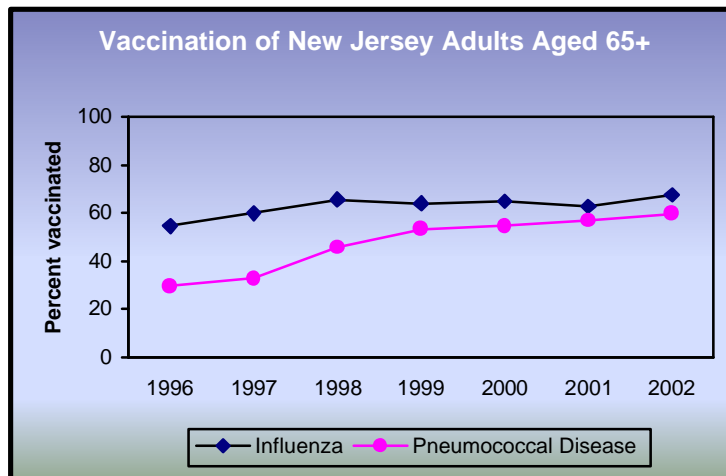


MONTHLY HEALTH DATA FACT SHEET August 2003

Immunization Status of New Jersey's Adults and Children: August is National Immunization Awareness Month

Adult Immunization

- Vaccine-preventable infections due to *Streptococcus pneumoniae* ([pneumococcal disease](#)) and influenza are a major cause of hospitalization and death among adults in the United States. Among persons aged 65 and over, influenza and pneumococcal infections are responsible for more cases and more deaths each year than all other vaccine-preventable diseases combined.
- *S. pneumoniae* has been estimated to account for over one-third of all pneumonia-related hospitalizations among adults in the United States, and is the chief cause of pneumonia in older adults. Pneumococcal pneumonia has been estimated to kill between 7,000 and 12,500 patients hospitalized for this condition per year.



this infection, commonly killing more than half of elderly patients who develop it. Altogether, pneumococcal disease has been estimated to cause more than 3,000 deaths per year among persons aged 65 and over.

- Influenza has recently been estimated to cause an average of 36,000 deaths per year, largely among the elderly. The actual number of influenza-related deaths varies widely, however, depending in part on the strain of virus that is circulating in a given season.
- The [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices](#) and other major authorities generally recommend annual influenza vaccination for all

persons aged 50 and over, and a one-time pneumococcal vaccination for all persons aged 65 and over. Immunization against pneumococcal disease and influenza is also recommended for other individuals at [high risk](#).

- In 2002, an estimated one-fourth of non-institutionalized New Jersey adults aged 65 and over reported not receiving an influenza vaccination within the past year and never receiving a pneumococcal vaccination. However, self-reported vaccination rates for both pneumococcal disease and influenza have been increasing since the mid-1990's, and are now comparable to those of the nation as a whole.
- According to the most recent survey data available, about 62% of non-institutionalized New Jersey adults aged 75 and over had both an influenza vaccination within the past year and a pneumococcal vaccination, compared with about 45% of adults aged 65-74.
- In 2001-2002, only about 34% of New Jersey adults aged 65 and over who identified themselves as Black, non-Hispanic and 29% of those who identified themselves as Hispanic reportedly had both an influenza vaccination within the past year and a pneumococcal vaccination, compared with about 53% of New Jersey adults aged 65 and over who identified themselves as White, non-Hispanic (age-adjusted results 33%, 32%, and 55%, respectively).

Childhood Immunization

- While all states including New Jersey have immunization requirements for children entering day care and school, all children, and particularly young children who have not been fully immunized, remain vulnerable to potentially deadly and disabling outbreaks of vaccine-preventable infectious diseases.
- It is currently recommended that all children be immunized against the following diseases by age 18 months: [diphtheria/tetanus/acellular pertussis](#) (DTaP), [polio](#), [measles/mumps/rubella](#) (MMR), [Haemophilus influenzae type b](#) (Hib), [hepatitis B](#), and [varicella](#). Also recommended are vaccination against pneumococcal disease and, for certain high-risk children, vaccination against [hepatitis A](#) and influenza.
- About three-fourths of New Jersey children met the [4:3:1:3:3 vaccination series](#) recommendation as of 2001.

Sources:

New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services

- [Childhood Immunization Facts](#)
- [New Jersey Behavioral Risk Factor Survey](#)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- [Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases, 7th ed.](#)
- [Adult Immunization Recommendations](#)
- [Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Recommendations](#)
- [National Immunization Survey](#)
- [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Reports](#)

For more information:

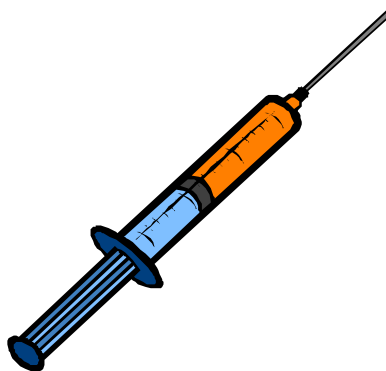
[National Immunization Awareness Month](#)

[National Immunization Program](#)

[State Health Profiles for Immunization](#)

[Healthy New Jersey 2010](#) (includes childhood and adult immunization objectives)

[Vaccine Preventable Disease Program](#) of the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services



James E. McGreevey, Governor

Clifton R. Lacy, MD, Commissioner

New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services
Center for Health Statistics
P.O. Box 360
Trenton, NJ 08625-0360